



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

March 8, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ANTONOVICH AND KNABE TO SEND FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTERS TO THE GOVERNOR, STATE LEGISLATURE, AND CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL RELATED TO THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (ITEM 3, AGENDA OF MARCH 13, 2012)

Item No. 3 on the March 13, 2012 Board Agenda is a motion by Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe requesting a five-signature letter be sent to the Governor and Legislature expressing strong opposition to the Governor's budget proposal to end all in-take of new juvenile offenders to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) effective January 1, 2013 and the County's willingness to work with the State on exploring other alternatives. The motion also requests a five-signature letter be sent to the California State Association of Counties urging them to send a similar letter to the Governor and State Legislature.

Over the last decade, the State has embarked on an effort to reduce the population of youthful offenders housed in DJJ. From a high of over 10,000 offenders in the 1990s, DJJ's population has dropped to an average of 1,200 in the last couple of years as a result of various legislative and regulatory changes, with more youth remaining in local county custody. Currently, only offenders who have been convicted of serious, violent, and/or sex offenses are eligible to be committed to DJJ.

The Governor's FY 2012-13 State Budget includes a proposal to continue the realignment of juvenile justice responsibilities from the State to counties. Beginning

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January 1, 2013, the Governor proposes that DJJ cease accepting any new commitments, with all youthful offenders remaining locally. DJJ would continue to house commitments placed in State custody on or before January 1, 2013, with the expectation that DJJ facilities would completely cease operation over time as the population phases out.

Youthful offenders adjudicated to DJJ have committed serious, violent, and sex offenses. They are sentenced to terms of several years or more and can be held until they are 25 years old. As a result of their offense, risk-level, mental health issues and criminal histories, these offenders require specialized housing and a high level of intensive supervision and treatment.

According to the Probation Department, the Governor's proposal would place a significant burden on the County to find suitable housing and provide the required programming and treatment for these youth by January 1, 2013. The Probation Department does not currently have any facilities in which they could securely house this offender population or the resources to provide the appropriate supervision and treatment.

The Chief Probation Officers of California is on record opposing the Governor's DJJ proposal. In addition, the Los Angeles Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee approved a motion to oppose the Governor's proposal at their meeting of March 7, 2012.

Therefore, consistent with your Board action of March 22, 2011 to support constitutional protections for the 2011 Realignment Program and direct the Chief Executive Office to work with the Brown Administration and the State Legislature to develop a feasible and sustainable realignment framework which included recommendations to oppose the realignment of DJJ, and the potential impact of the Governor's DJJ proposal on the County as outlined above, **approval of this motion to send five-signature letters to the Governor, the State Legislature and the California State Association of Counties strongly opposing the Governor's DJJ proposal is consistent with existing policy.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:KA:sb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel